



USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

May 15, 2012 Highlights:



The Honorable Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture is seen here presenting at the launch of Digital Jam 2.0 which was held at the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday May 8, 2012.



Dr. Leslie Simpson from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) addressing participants at the Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience Conference at the Jamaica Pegasus on Thursday May 10, 2012.

- ◆ **USAID/OFDA Caribbean Regional Conference** - USAID/Jamaica Mission Disaster Relief Officers (MDRO), participated in the USAID/OFDA Caribbean regional conference in Barbados May 8-9. This is an annual workshop that brings together the OFDA team and MDROs ahead of the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season which begins on June 1 and runs through November 30 each year. At the interactive workshop lessons from events in the previous year(s) were shared and presentations from several disaster and hurricane monitoring agencies such as the National Hurricane Centre in Miami, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, among others. There were also presentations on roles and responsibilities of the MDRO, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. The NOAA forecast for the 2012 season will be released on May 24.
- ◆ **Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience Conference** - The University of the West Indies, Mona in partnership with USAID/JAMAICA and additional donor agencies like the EU hosted a conference on Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience: The Challenge of Sustainable Development in the Caribbean and Beyond. The conference was held from Wednesday May 9, to Friday May 11, 2012.
- ◆ **Digital Jam 2.0** - The Government of Jamaica in collaboration with The World Bank, Jamaican private sector ICT (information communication and technology) companies and international development partners launched the staging of Digital Jam 2.0 - "The Future of Work is Online." The launch was held at the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday May 8, 2012. Digital JAM 2.0 is being staged against the background that unemployment affects a large number of Jamaica's youth, and the global online world of business and employment presents unparalleled new options. The virtual economy now offers new opportunities and solutions for entrepreneurs and Jamaica's youth, such as using the internet to earn a living by performing paid tasks in the virtual economy. USAID/JAMAICA is providing US\$20,000 to cover the cost of the Presenters/Facilitators, and the App Competition and Software Training Camp.
- ◆ **Ministry of Health Partner's Meeting**— On May 11 the Ministry of Health convened its first partner's meeting of agencies (Caribbean Coalition of Vulnerable Communities, UWIHARP, Bureau of Women's Affairs, National HIV/STI Program/ Gender Project and representative from Sex Workers group) working in addressing gender-based violence and the HIV linkages in Jamaica.

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Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **Junior Achievement:** On May 14-16, 2012 Junior Achievement along with key partners in the deaf community will be participating in a review of year one of the Supporting Workforce Training & Development for Deaf Community in Jamaica. The workshop including the venue (Beaches Sandy Bay) is being sponsored by Sandals Foundation and FirstCaribbean International Bank. The year one review of the two-year program was conducted by the mostly in-kind support of graduate students from the University of Minnesota in March 2012. The workshop will also give Junior Achievement a chance to get feedback from teachers of the deaf whose schools are piloting the draft JA Jamaica Sign Language Manual as well as plan forward for year two of the program.
- ♦ **USAID/Jamaica Basic Education Project:** The Chief Education Officer convened a meeting with Regional Directors, Implementing Partners and USAID to discuss the schools' selection process. Following that meeting, the Acting Permanent Secretary signed off on a preliminary list. USAID received feedback from the regions on the school selection process. This will allow us to arrive at the final number of schools and to start tallying the total potentially impacted students by the project for reporting to USAID/Washington on May 16, 2012.
- ♦ **PEPFAR Mid-term Evaluation:** The regional PEPFAR Mid-term Evaluation will begin in June 2012. Two consultants will be doing interviews with USG staff and implementing partners in Jamaica as well as three other Caribbean countries. Data collection should be completed by end of July with a final report by the end of September 2012.